

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

May 13, 1999

LB 585, 849

SENATOR CUDABACK: Question before the body is, shall LB 585 be advanced to E & R for engrossing? All those in favor say aye. Opposed nay. It is advanced. Mr. Clerk, next item.

CLERK: Senator Smith, LB 849. E & R amendments, Senator. (AM7119, Legislative Journal page 1420.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Mr. President, I move the adoption of the E & R amendments to LB 849.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You've heard the motion about the E & R amendments. All those in favor say aye. Opposed nay. They are adopted.

CLERK: Senator Hartnett would move to amend with AM1740. (Legislative Journal page 1991.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Hartnett, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. President, members of the body, LB 849 establishes an award benefit program for volunteer firefighters and rescue personnel in our state. If local entities, fire districts, cities, choose to participate in the program, they must contribute at least \$100 per year per eligible volunteer. The state may contribute up to \$100 per year per qualified volunteer. After the debate on General File, it was clear that we needed to answer two questions regarding this bill. What is the best approach to invest the monies and protect against mismanagement? And the second one is, what entity could best administer this fund at the state level? In drafting this amendment I met with the Fire Marshal, the director and attorney for the Public Employees Retirement System, Senator Stuhr, Senator Wehrbein, Senator Smith and members of their staff to discuss the issues. The meeting conclusion reached...led to this amendment. The State Fire Marshal, the director and attorney of the Public Employees Retirement System have reviewed the amendments and have approved of them. It's a long amendment, but it's probably because of numerous changes in